

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### **ULSTER HEAD START PROGRAM AWARDED \$605,630**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. has been awarded a grant of \$605,630 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant will allow UCCAC to expand Early Head Start services.

"The availability of adequate early childhood care is a key factor in allowing parents to earn a decent living," said Hinchey. "In addition, the Early Head Start program can greatly aid in a child's development."

The programs funded by this grant will be conducted at the new Head Start/Early Childhood Facility at the Kingston Housing Authority Affordable Housing Complex. Early Head Start will also be operated through a partnership with Ulster County BOCES Child Care Center and through a home-based option.

"This exciting grant will enable us to provide early, comprehensive child development, health and family services to infants and toddlers and their families in Ulster County," said Larry Kithcart, executive director of Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. "Once again, we are greatly appreciative of the efforts put forth by Congressman Hinchey in helping to bring Early Head Start services to Ulster County."

The new facility, which is being developed in partnership with the Kingston Housing Authority and the City of Kingston, will be located in the complex that includes Colonial Gardens, Colonial Addition and Stuyvesant Charter Apartments. When completed it will enable Ulster County Community Action to provide comprehensive Head Start/childcare services to 138 children ages infant through pre-school. Ulster County currently has five Head Start Centers and a Home Based Program. Since September 2001, Hinchey has announced two other HHS grants for construction of the facility. The total federal commitment to construction is \$1,283,062.

Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs, which serve children from birth to age 5, pregnant women, and their families. The program is designed to enhance a child's physical, social, emotional and intellectual development; to support the bond between parents and their children and to help parents move toward self-sufficiency.